

XXVII.—On the Discovery of the Snail-Leech, *Glossiphonia marginata*, in England. By the Rev. W. HOUGHTON, M.A., F.L.S.

[With a Plate.]

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to record the occurrence of a species of *Glossiphonia* (Rawlins Johnson), viz. *G. marginata*, as an addition to our English fauna. This species has never before been found in any locality in England; under the name of *Hirudo flava*, however, Sir J. Dalzell seems to have met with it in Scotland (*vide* 'Power of the Creator Displayed,' vol. ii. pl. 5. figs. 1–19). His figures are not at all good; the characteristic form of the head, however, is sufficiently shown, which is described as being "lanceolate or trout-shaped." The description of *Hirudo flava* by Dalzell agrees with the characters of *Glossiphonia marginata*, with the exception of the number of eyes which his specimen possessed. *Hirudo flava* has only two eyes, whereas *Glossiphonia marginata* has four; but this discrepancy is easily accounted for when we remember that the number of eyes is not, in this family, by any means constant in all the individuals of any one species. Sometimes the anterior pair are very rudimentary, sometimes entirely absent. Moreover, in *G. marginata* the anterior pair are considerably smaller than the posterior pair, and might possibly be overlooked. Dalzell's description and drawings were made from specimens which he found during the time of their having either eggs or young adhering to the belly; and at this time *G. marginata* is, on the under side, of a bright yellow colour, as are also the ova. The specific name, however, of *flava* would give a very erroneous notion of the usual colour of this animal, though the name is appropriate enough during the breeding-season. However, I feel pretty certain that *Hirudo flava*, in spite of these discrepancies, is identical with *G. marginata*, and has therefore been discovered in Scotland; but I can find no record of its ever having been found in England. The first specimen of the species I ever saw was found by me in Bala Lake, on the 22nd of June last; it was attached (*more* Glossiphoniarum) to the under surface of a stone near the margin of the lake, with a number of yellow eggs underneath it. The only other locality in which I have found *G. marginata* is in a small stream in Warwickshire, on the Solihull and Barston road, on the right-hand side of the wooden foot-bridge about a mile from the latter village. Here, in the autumn of last year, I found some four or five specimens: the animal is, however, very rare. I have for the last two years confined my attention chiefly to the Glossiphons, and have searched many ponds for

A.

Fig. 1.

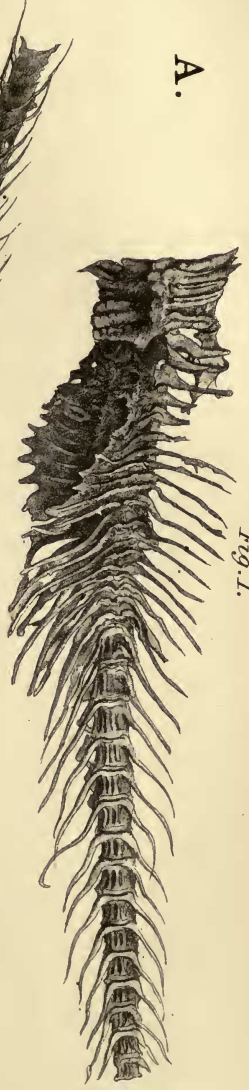
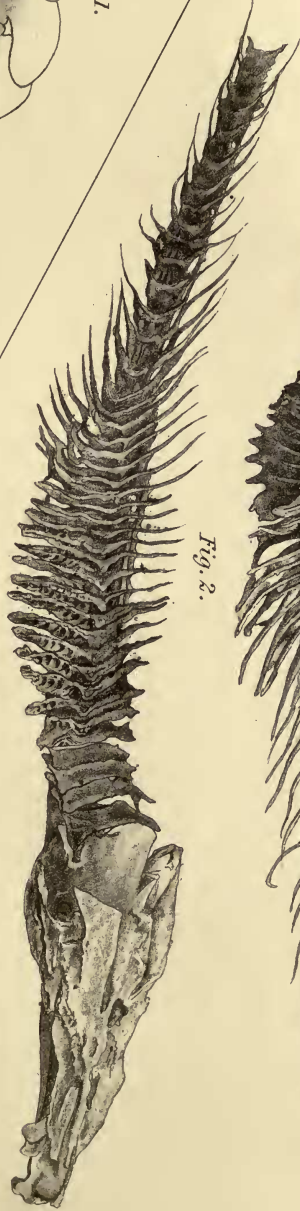


Fig. 2.



B.

Fig. 1.

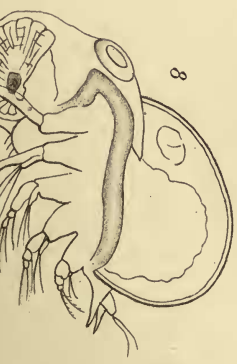


Fig. 2.

C.

Fig. 1.

